

Examiner Renumbered Claims

Appl. # 10/651,059

Amdt. dated June 27, 2005

Reply to Office action of April 26, 2005

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Claim 18 (new): A dental matrix band for restoring a tooth with restorative material, the dental matrix band comprising:

- (a) a boomerang-shaped body to wrap completely around a tooth; and
- (b) intact uninterrupted extrusion holes or apertures within said body to specifically align with the prepared inter-proximal surface or surfaces of a tooth.

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Claim ¹⁷~~18~~ (new): The dental matrix band of claim ¹⁶~~18~~ wherein said extrusion aperture is continuous, uninterrupted, possesses one or more notches in its periphery, and is enveloped by the expanse of said boomerang-shaped body.

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Claim ¹⁹20 (new): The dental matrix band of claim ¹⁶18 wherein said boomerang-shaped body possesses a contiguous appendage directly superior to said extrusion aperture.

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Claim 21 (new): A dental matrix band comprising a boomerang shape body of metal with a notched extrusion aperture located to specifically align with the inter-proximal surface of a prepared tooth.

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Claim ~~22~~ (new): A dental matrix band comprising a boomerang shape body of metal with a notched extrusion aperture located to specifically align with the inter-proximal surface of a prepared tooth.

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9w ²¹ Claim ~~23~~ (new): The dental matrix band of claim ²⁰ ~~22~~ wherein said boomerang shaped body possesses a contiguous appendage directly superior to said notched extrusion aperture to serve as an orientation sighting guide.

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gu ²² Claim ~~24~~ (new): The dental matrix band of claim ²⁰ ~~22~~ wherein said contiguous appendage serves as an initiation point for band separation. ¹

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ju Claim ²³~~23~~ (new): The dental matrix band of claim ²⁰~~22~~ wherein said aperture containing said notches allows for band separation upon severance initiation of said contiguous appendage.

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Claim ²⁴~~26~~ (new): A method of achieving positive inter-proximal contact of a filled tooth to contact its abutting neighbor comprising:

- (a) a flat boomerang-shaped body of material possessing an uninterrupted extrusion aperture that has a superiorly positioned supportive appendage contiguous to said boomerang-shaped body and a separation notch or notches in medial alignment with said aperture and said supportive appendage.
- (b) providing a decayed tooth and prepping said decayed tooth with an appropriate instrument.
- (c) attaching said boomerang-shaped body to a retainer and place circumferentially around said decayed prepared tooth,
- (d) said aperture is positioned to directly oppose an inter-proximal area of a tooth adjacent to said decayed prepped tooth,
- (e) a restorative material is introduced within said prepped decayed tooth and compacted with a condensing instrument with said restorative material passing through said extrusion aperture and contacting said adjacent abutting tooth.

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Claim ~~27~~²⁵: (new): A method for removing a matrix band placed circumferentially around a tooth comprising:

- a) providing a body of material possessing one or more notches within its aperture to allow for band separation upon application of a force.
- (b) attaching said body to a retaining device and placing the body circumferentially around a tooth with one or more prepared inter-proximal surfaces.
- (c) applying an initiating separation cut to the superior aspect of said semi-circular appendage.
- (d) providing a constrictive force to effect a lateral separation of said body through said at least one aperture.
- (e) removing said separated non-disjoined flexible body from said restored tooth.